

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 5, 2002

LB 470

in quotes because carrier enforcement officers don't do the maintenance on trucks, but I mean doing their job, and truckers coming through this state knowing that that job is going to be done, may prevent more carnage on the highway than having some state trooper hiding behind a hill trying to catch somebody speeding. Law enforcement is best...

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...when it is preventative. Never will law enforcement apprehend even a substantial portion or number of violators. The more prevention that can be engaged in, the better for society. This bill does not enhance the training of carrier enforcement officers. It does not ensure an experience level within the carrier enforcement division. All it does is give people more money and a chance to retire earlier than if they were staying in the carrier enforcement division, and those concerns are not enough to justify doing what this bill is undertaking to do. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) Next speaker, Senator Thompson, please.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. When I came to the State Patrol Task Force, I had a lot of the same concerns that have been mentioned on the floor today, and spent some time trying to decide whether my concerns were realistic in the view of running an agency. And one of the things that I learned from some of the other people on the task force, who were chiefs of police, including chiefs from fairly large cities, as well as sheriffs and people who manage in this atmosphere, is that it's hard to apply certain types of management to an organization that is, from my point of view, a military style organization. Jobs, you may...we don't evaluate every single job in the State Patrol for a particular pay range like we do in state agencies because people are there by rank. And so they may be performing certain duties when they...as a sergeant, and then they get promoted into a management, another management position. It's a different system to work in. And the question that I'm hearing is, should we tie this division to a different set of rules than the rest of the State Patrol, if